Animal prevalence of livestock-associated methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus in five Danish mink farms

Fertner, Mette Ely; Pedersen, Karl; Hansen, Julie Elvekjær; Larsen, Gitte; Chriél, Mariann

Publication date:
2017

Document Version
Publisher's PDF, also known as Version of record

DTU Vet
National Veterinary Institute

Animal prevalence of livestock-associated methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* in five Danish mink farms

Mette Fertner, Karl Pedersen, Julie Elvekjær Hansen, Gitte Larsen, Mariann Chriél

Division for Diagnostics & Scientific Advice – Bacteriology & Parasitology, National Veterinary Institute, Technical University of Denmark

We found **LA-MRSA in four out of five Danish mink farms**, tested between July and August 2017. On positive farms, the **animal prevalence ranged from 20 to 29%.**

	Farm 1	Farm 2	Farm 3	Farm 4	Farm 5
Mink carcasses (n positive/n tested)	20% (18/92)	0% (0/241)	26% (36/136)	25% (14/55)	29% (35/120)

Livestock-associated methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (LA-MRSA) was for the first time isolated from Danish mink in 2013. LA-MRSA in mink is believed to originate from contaminated slaughter-offal in the mink feed.

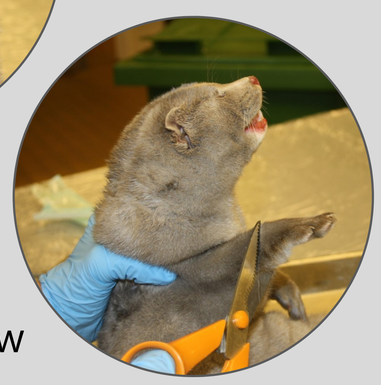
The anatomical location of LA-MRSA on mink (pharynx and paws) poses a human health hazard to farmers, when handling the animals and at risk for bites and scratches from infected sites.

Mink farm

Materials and methods

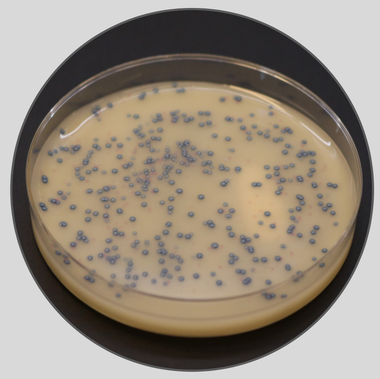
Five Danish mink farms

645 mink carcasses



Pharyngeal swab and dissection of right forepaw

Selective enrichment



Culture on selective agar and species confirmation by MALDI-TOF

Technical University of Denmark

DTU VET
National Veterinary Institute
Division for Diagnostics & Scientific Advice
Technical University of Denmark

Kemitorvet
2800 Kgs. Lyngby / Denmark

Corresponding author:

Mette Fertner
Postdoc

E-mail: memun@vet.dtu.dk